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Gray Asked by President to Head New Psychological Warfare Board

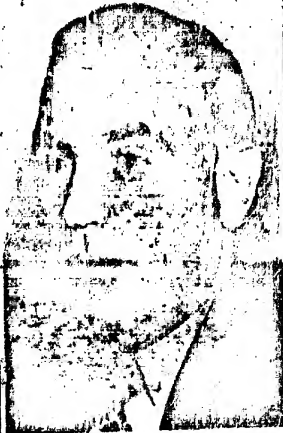
By WALTER H. WAGNER
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 8—Gordon Gray, former Secretary of the Army and author of an official report on foreign economic policy, has been asked by President Truman to direct a new psychological warfare board now being formed to devise strategy against Russian communism in all but military operations.

Mr. Gray, now president of the University of North Carolina, is regarded by the President and other high Administration officials as having an exceptional talent for coordinating such many-sided programs as the one for which he is now being sought.

The new agency will be an independent unit but will operate through the activities of the State and Defense Departments and the Central Intelligence Agency and report to the National Security Council.

Assigned as directors of the new board would be James E. Webb, Under Secretary of State; Robert A. Lovett, Deputy Secretary of



Gordon Gray

The New York Times (Washington Bureau)

Defense and Lieut. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The division of responsibility for

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TRUMAN ASKS GRAY TO HEAD NEW UNIT

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the charting of strategic offensive in the propaganda, political and economic fields—which together spell "psychological warfare"—was behind President Truman's recent decision to create a separate and controlling agency for that purpose.

A National Psychological Strategy Board was created within the State Department last Aug. 17 and was made the responsibility chiefly of Edward W. Barrett, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, who was named chairman.

The board operated interdepartmentally, with full representation given to the Defense Department, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Central Intelligence Agency and "liaison" representation to the Economic Cooperation Administration.

The board has operated almost exclusively in the information and propaganda field, however, and did not provide the staff leadership for a genuine psychological warfare operation sought now by the Administration.

The new board, it is understood, will represent a compromise on proposals submitted by the State and Defense Departments many weeks ago when Mr. Truman asked for a high-powered strategy-planning agency.

The State Department felt that its own psychological strategy board, with wider powers, would meet the requirement. The Defense Department, however, proposed a separate agency.

The choice of the President removes the board from the exclusive control of any single department but gives the bureaus most directly concerned an equal voice in its direction and planning activities.

The board's own staff is expected to be a small one, according to well-informed sources. When policy is to be made or operation planned for a specific job or geographical area, it was said, the experts of the three departments will be called in for consultation.

It was not known at this time the President's proposal. If he does, officials feel that the Gov-

ernment will be in the best position to handle one of the most difficult tasks and to handle them in a sensible manner.

A newspaper publisher and radio station owner at Winston-Salem, N. C., as well as a university president, Mr. Gray has also practiced law in New York City. He enlisted in the Army as a private in May, 1942, and rose to captain and saw overseas duty in Europe. He was named Assistant Secretary of the Army in 1947 and Secretary in 1949, at the age of 40.

Mr. Gray resigned as Secretary of the Army in April, 1950, but before assuming his university office in the fall he accepted a special position as an assistant to President Truman assigned to the task of recommending a long-range foreign economic aid program.

Security Set-Up Gains

Some Key Agencies Lag, but Marshall
Presses Reorganization in Three Fields

By HANSON W. BALDWIN

The Government's organization for national security—the Defense Department and the agencies most closely allied with it—has made episodic, but generally steady and major, progress since last fall toward the development of a smoothly working mechanism.

Basic weaknesses in numerous fields still exist, and two key agencies, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the National Security Council—still are the subject of much argument and some criticisms. But major energy has been devoted, since General of the Army George C. Marshall and Robert A. Lovett assumed office as Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense, respectively, to the reorganizing, improving or creating of agencies in three specific directions—the Munitions Board; the Research and Development Board and psychological warfare.

Before the Korean war, and in its first stages, the Munitions Board had unquestionably failed to fulfill its functions adequately. Its relationship with other Government agencies—notably with Charles E. Wilson's Office of Defense Mobilization—were obscure. It had been immersed in too much detail, and had overcentralized its general direction and control of the services' procurement and operations.

Many of these weaknesses now have been remedied, although the board's problem still is great, greater in some ways than in World War II, since the nation's mobilization today is partial and selective rather than all-out and across-the-board.

The Research and Development Board, on the other hand, is still at loose ends, and the bright hopes of its post-war inception never have been fulfilled. Its organization of committees with numerous panels and joint panels may be compared to a can of angle worms, and most of its part-time scientific personnel, experienced in their field, have found it impossible, meeting just once a month, to keep in touch with all the innumerable details.

Government and allied industrial research has become so broad that it has been hard to find completely disinterested civilians, that is, men whose civilian jobs do not associate them in one way or another with various Government-sponsored research projects. The committee system—with representatives of all three services on most committees and with most committee members representing interested parties—also makes for delayed decisions or no decisions.

The consequence has been that the Research and Development Board has limped along, despite efforts to invigorate it, and a number of resignations of part-time or

full-time scientific personnel have occurred in the last year. The possible complete reorganization of this board is now being studied on high levels and a new chairman and other personnel soon may be named.

In the psychological warfare field, the need for some group to formulate and coordinate policies has long been felt. The State Department, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Army Department, the Department of the Air Force, and to a lesser extent, the Department of the Navy, either have had increasingly active psychological warfare sections, or have been "interested parties."

The State Department long has had the Voice of America and other activities in the psychological field; the Central Intelligence Agency has a secret group of growing importance; the Army has a psychological warfare section under Brig. Gen. Robert A. McClure, which has been expanding recently; and the Air Force has assigned an officer to active efforts in this field. So far, the Navy is "interested" but has no active operating section.

To coordinate the efforts of these disparate groups, a psychological warfare board composed of Deputy Secretary of Defense Lovett, Under Secretary of State James E. Webb, and Lieut. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, was created by executive order of the President last April 14.

Its function is the formulation and promulgation of over-all national psychological objectives and the coordination and evaluation of the policies and programs of the various psychological warfare operating agencies. In other words, the board is not envisaged as an operating agency itself; it is more a board of directors. It reports to the National Security Council.

It was disclosed three days ago that President Truman had asked Gordon Gray to direct the board. Mr. Gray, now president of the University of North Carolina, formerly was Secretary of the Army and the author of a major report last year on foreign economic policy.

When a director is appointed and when he establishes his staff, it will require some months before a proper formulation and evaluation of our psychological objectives and programs can be accomplished, and then the director will almost certainly be faced with what has been, to date, a growing rivalry between various agencies in this field, and some attempts at "empire-building."

His greatest job will be to make certain that the right hand of Government knows what the left hand is doing.

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Psychological Strategy Unit

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, July 14. Gordon Gray, former Secretary of the Army and now president of the University of North Carolina, was sworn in today as director of the new Psychological Strategy Board. President Truman attended the ceremony, which took place in the White House.

The board was set up to coordinate the activities of all Government agencies in directing non-military aspects of the cold war. After the ceremony Mr. Gray said he was now "trying to develop some ideas about the type of a staff" he was going to have. He emphasized that the board was not to be an operating agency. Its functions would be those of planning policy and coordinating "executing policies," he explained.

The new director said he wanted to correct some "erroneous reports" about his salary. It will not be \$14,000 "for working two days a week," he added, but he will be paid on a per diem basis. In the meantime he is continuing as president of the university and will stay in that position "until I see how it works out."

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